The Lions' Pride

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Saint Leo's "Alternate Reality Learning Experience"

By Cassidy Whitaker and Christine Bocchino
Contributing Writers

"We're asking the question: what would happen if Saint Leo hosted a presidential debate?"

Dr. Jeff Borden, "Chief Innovation Officer," posed this question to an audience of students, faculty and staff at the kickoff of one of the largest innovative learning experiences in the school's history.

This fall, Saint Leo University will be hosting a mock Presidential and Vice Presidential debate with its very own students starring as the candidates. Students will play the roles of the Party Leader, Campaign Director, Communications and Logistics Directors, and Policy Advisors for both the Democratic and Republican parties. The students playing these roles are all enrolled in the Political Science class POL-300: The Presidency, taught by Mr. Frank Orlando, but Political Science is not the sole department involved in this upcoming experience. Six other departments including Criminal Justice, Marketing, Video Production, Communication, Education, and Psychology will also be involved in multiple ways.

"This is an opportunity for students to learn about politics by doing and practical engagement. Also, the fact that so many classes are involved is going to give this an importance that's going to allow us to do more events like this, bring in more people, and really give students great experiences," said Political Science Department Advisor and Instructor Frank Orlando.

This experience is all part of a new method of education that Saint Leo is experimenting with called an "Alternate Reality Learning Experience," which aims to engage students in learning through active participation as opposed to simply listening to lectures for an entire semester.

"I believe that this will be a great way to get people involved in politics because it will show them what an actual election would be like, just on a smaller scale," said senior Jacob Gates. Gates will be playing the role of Christopher Sampson, the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate. "[The Alternate Reality Learning Experience] gets people more interested in the real campaigns occurring right now as they're in the national spotlight, and I believe that it will prepare students for the actual 2016 Presidential election that will occur in about 14 months."

On Wednesday, September 2, Saint Leo welcomed four honored guests to discuss topics such as the importance of youth's involvement in political activism, how a campaign is run, media coverage, the importance of voting, and even to the crucial role that Florida – specifically, Tampa – plays in national elections. The guests included Tyler Cash, Dr. Steve Kistulentz, William March, and Kurt Browning. Cash worked on the Mitt Romney, John McCain, and Charlie Crist campaigns and currently works for the Republican Party of Florida. Dr. Kistulentz is a former polling consultant and published author currently an Associate Professor of English, who worked in national politics for 17 years. March is a veteran freelance political reporter and editor for the Tampa Bay Times who has covered every presidential race since 1994. Browning is a former Pasco County Supervisor of Elections as well as the Florida Secretary of State and currently serves as the Pasco County Superintendent of Schools.

With the upcoming presidential election, Tampa will be thrown into a national spotlight as the epicenter of an important swing state – as March stated, "[Florida is] basically at the center of the universe and the black hole at the center of that center is Tampa." This environment provides an opportunity for complete immersion as students begin to campaign alongside actual presidential candidates.

"A lot of young people are disconnected from politics, but if we can bring it to campus and make it more approachable and something that everyone can relate to, it will be a really great learning opportunity," said senior Zoe Mathieu. Mathieu will be playing the role of "Rachel Bowman," the Democratic Presidential candidate.

The first mock debate will be between the Vice Presidential candidates for the Democratic and Republican parties and will be held on Wednesday, October 21 at 5p.m. in the Boardrooms. The second debate and main event will be between the Presidential candidates for both parties and will be on Friday, November 13 at 7p.m. also in the Boardrooms. All students and faculty are welcome to witness the productions created as a result of weeks of the students' hard work.

"The eyes of not only the campus community but also the greater campus community are going to be on them. The pressure is definitely on, but I know that there's talent in that class and that they can do it," continued Orlando.

Any time The Lions' Pride covers or prints an article about ARLE the above logo will be run to designate this program.

Kurt Browning has been involved in Florida politics his entire life.

Dr. Steve Kistulentz formerly worked in polling consultation, national politics, is a published author, and currently is an Associate Professor of English.

William March has covered every Presidential race since 1994.

Tyler Cash stresses the importance of youth's involvement in political activism.

Photos Courtesy of Cassidy Whittaker

Editorial

To Eat or Not To Eat?

By Jordan Cardenas
Special to the Lions' Pride

It's lunchtime and you have just gotten out of class, so why not stop by the University's cafeteria for a meal? The steaming food is calling for you, you can feel the powerful scent drifting into your nose, with a plentiful amount of options to choose from. Your stomach is all for it, but what about your wallet? Well, whether both parties agree to it or not, when you live on campus, you might not even have as much of a choice as you would think.

In the Saint Leo University Campus Life Handbook, a number of rules and regulations are listed towards the end in the fine print, including "Meal Plan Assignments." Any students living in the following campus buildings—Alumni, Apartments 5 & 6, Benoit, Henderson, Marmion, Roderick and Snyder—are required to have the Unlimited Meal Plan as a part of their residence life bill.

As for students that live in Apartments 1-4 and on East Campus, they have the option to select either the 5 Meal Plan, 10 Meal Plan, or Unlimited Meal Plan, though students living on East Campus are not required to have a meal plan at all.

These meal plans vary largely in price, according to the Residence Hall and Board Rates listed on the University's official website—the 5 Meal Plan costs $770 per semester, the 10 Meal Plan costs $1,540 per semester, and the Unlimited Meal Plan costs a whopping $2,310 per semester. This means that most students living on the Unlimited Meal Plan are paying nearly $20,000 on food in their four year degree, some possibly not even utilizing the cafeteria every single day, and with no option to opt out of paying for it.

"It's crazy expensive—they charge so much for this," alumnus Lauren Horne commented, who lived in Roderick. "Sure, the $100 Bonus Bucks you get for the Unlimited is nice, but it's really not worth it."

According to Director of Dining Services Rich Vogel, the cafeteria's food and its meal plans are managed by Sodexo, a multinational French food services and facilities management corporation, and is one of the largest companies in the hospitality business. Vogel has been working in the food industry for over 40 years, and has strong faith in the current structure at the University.

"Unlimited Meal Plan is really geared towards freshmen, because when they come on campus they have too much to deal with and learn, and a lot of them find it hard to control their expenses," Vogel explained. "On the Unlimited Meal Plan, they don't have to worry about anything, they can come eat whenever they want, so that always worked out the best."

Vogel also added that many students such as athletes tend to stay on the Unlimited Meal Plan because they don't want to deal with food expenses. Yet this still doesn't solve the issue for those who would like to manage their money on their own, or prefer buying groceries for themselves. Moving to Apartments 1-4 or East Campus are also more expensive to live in per semester than other buildings that require the Unlimited Meal Plan, such as Henderson and Benoit, while still having to pay for a meal plan of some form unless a student chooses to live on East Campus.

"I wish they would bring back the 15 Meal Plan," said Daniel Roman, a computer science major alumnus who was forced to switch to the Unlimited Meal Plan due to the current organization of meal plans when living in Apartment 5. "It would be great so students who eat two meals a day could have food for the whole week."

It's understandable that the organization of certain meal plans are set to help students with food and money management, but is it really helping all students? After all, college students are adults who should have the right to decide which meal plan best suits them, regardless of where they decide to live on campus. In the end, it seems to be benefitting the University more with their own expenses rather than helping students find the right fit for their best experience at the University. Perhaps now it would be a good time to revamp and give the University's meal plan system a total overhaul, for the benefit of all students.

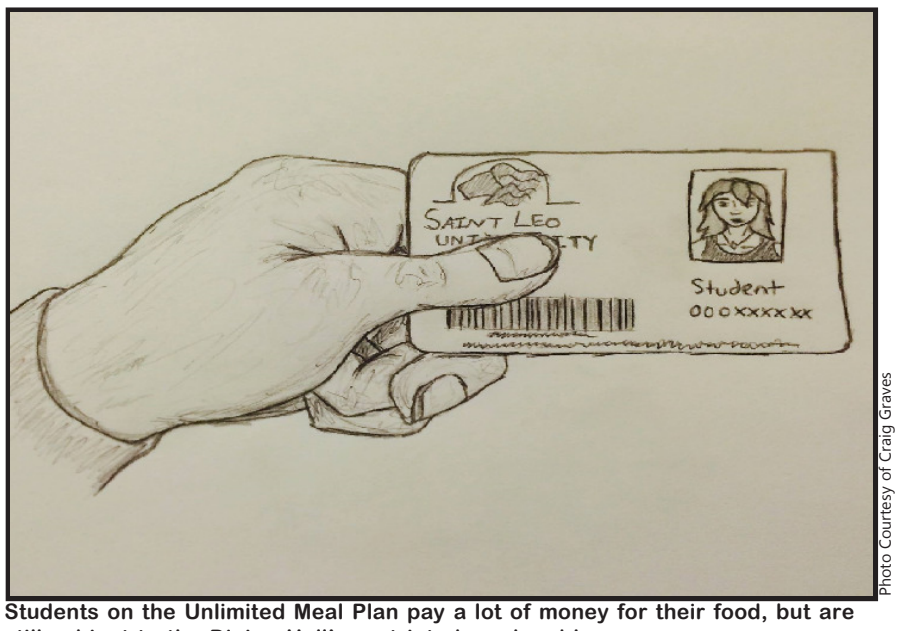

Photo Courtesy of Craig Graves

Students on the Unlimited Meal Plan pay a lot of money for their food, but are still subject to the Dining Hall's restricted weekend hours

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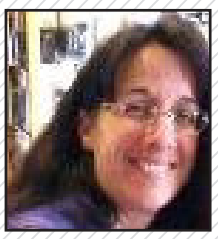

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Campus News

Career Planning's Big Move on Campus

By Amber Gilkes
Contributing Writer

Career Planning has moved from Saint Edwards Hall to the second floor of the Student Activities Building.

Career Planning was in Saint Edwards for roughly four years. The office was cramped, and it was out of the way for students. With their new location in the Student Activity Building, or SAB, they will be able to get more people in their offices because of the more centralized location.

Career Planning has set up their new space to be a very relaxing and student-ordinated environment.

"I enjoy all the natural lighting in this new space," said Robert Liddell, director of Career Planning. "Saint Ed's was so far away from everything and we just needed more space. Now that we're here in SAB we have a bigger conference room and in Saint Ed's it was just very cramped."

The computer lab that the LRC had is still in the room, so students can still use the printers.

"We here in Career Services would love for students to still use this space as a study space and be the new hangout," Liddell said.

With the new space, Career Planning is going to start offering new programs that the students can get involved in, such as the Student Advisory Board that Assistant Director of Career Planning, Matthew Battista, is the head of. This is an effort to include and influence the students.

"Students get to learn about our goals and work with our professional staff to develop programs, to inform, improve, and inspire personal best performances," said Liddell.

"I am just so excited about this new space for the students, and for it to be the new hangout. We are not resume police. We like to get involved and get to know the students," Batista said.

Career Planning tries to make students aware that the earlier in their college career they come in the better. They are able to get to know students better, and help them build resumes, meet people, and make connections. Liddell tries to make it clear that Career Planning is just not for seniors. They want to meet everyone.

"We try to get to know the students better. We hosted a Kick Start, which was a kick ball game at the beginning of the semester right before classes started," said Liddell.

Career Planning is making it a point to be seen on campus. They will start holding workshops for building resumes and getting more connections every Mon. and Thurs. from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Career Planning will be hosting an Open House Sept. 9 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The open house is to show off their new space and to get to know people better.

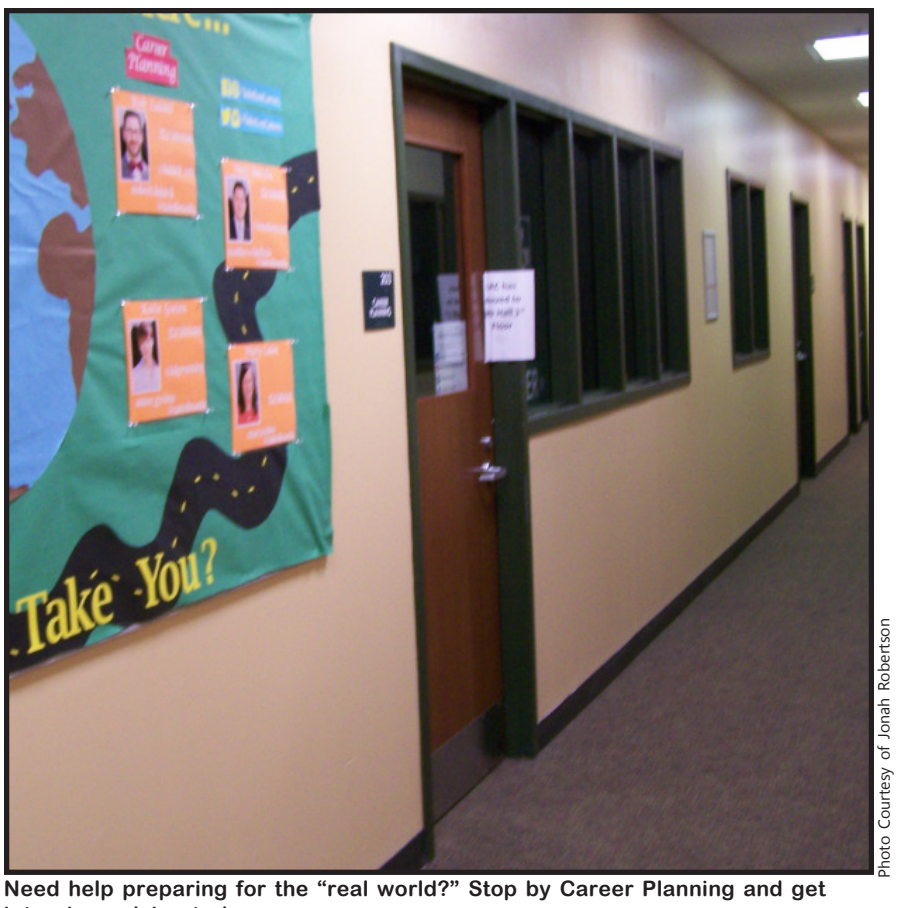

Photo Courtesy of Jonah Robertson

Need help preparing for the "real world?" Stop by Career Planning and get interview advice today.

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Campus News

Saint Leo Students Get Involved

By Craig Graves and Erin Gaylord
Staff Writers

The rainy weather did not keep students away from attending the Involvement Fair on Sept. 4 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Instead of being stationed along the sidewalk from the Student Activity Building to Kirk Hall as originally intended, the tables were set up on the logias of the SAB and the Student Community Center.

Of the many clubs and organizations on campus, 42 of them had a booth set up for the fair to attract new members. This year's Involvement Fair had a lot of returning clubs and organizations as well as some that many students might not have seen before.

"I think that [the Involvement Fair] is super important because a lot of clubs and organizations don't do a good job of getting themselves out there," said senior Kara Marino from Opus Fides, the Drama Ministry on campus.

The purpose of the Involvement Fair is for the various clubs and organizations to promote themselves to current and new students. These groups are looking for students who are interested in becoming involved on campus and with community events.

"We hope to recruit potential people who hold our values and that will help reach out to our community," said junior Max Glaser from Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service-based fraternity.

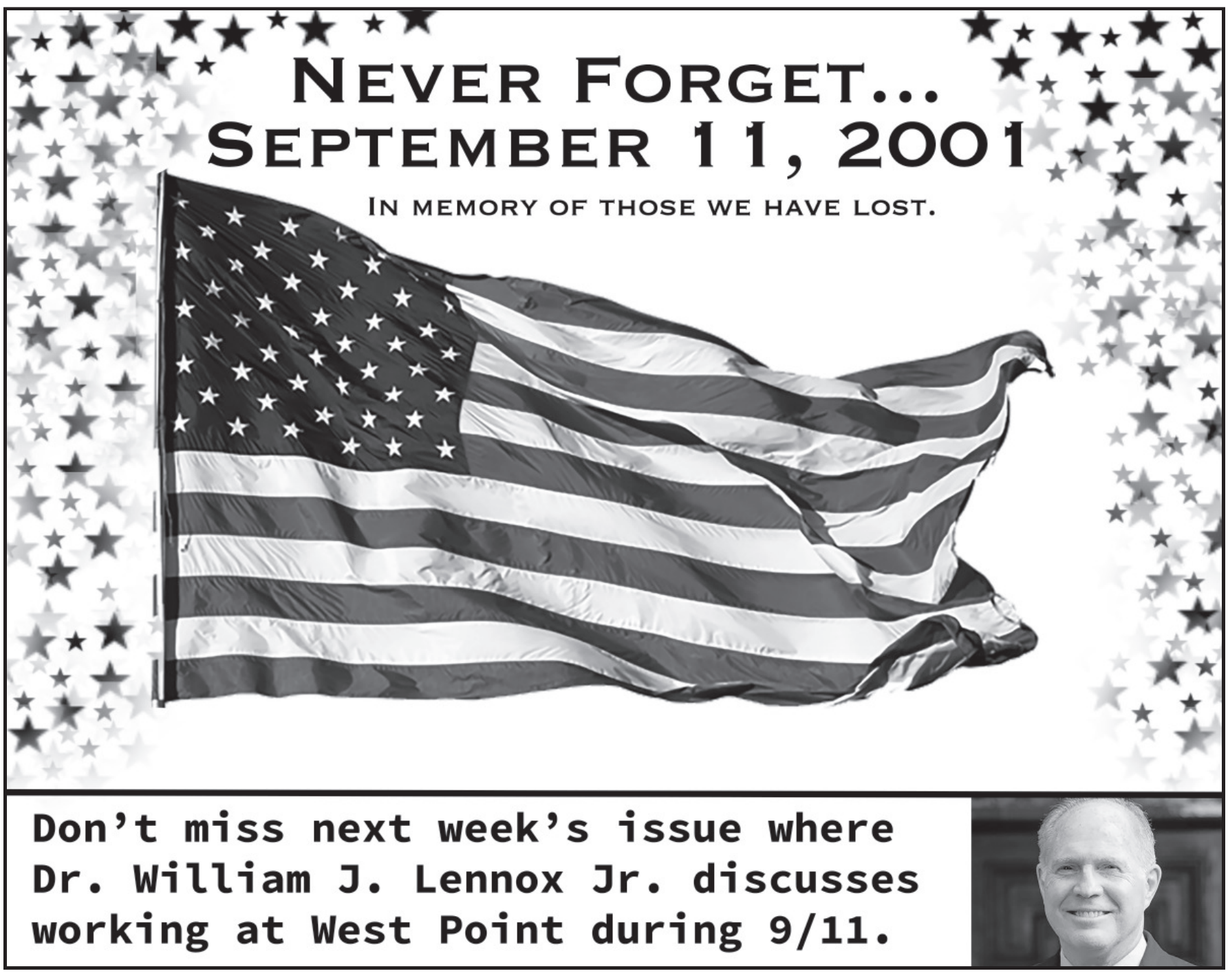
Despite the dreary weather the music playing throughout the fair drew in countless students to peruse the booths and find the right club or organization to suit their interests and personalities. If the music and bustle of people was not enough to entice students, some organizations were handing out freebies such as Saint Leo University merchandise, candy, and drinks.

The clubs and organizations on campus serve to improve the sense of community and uphold the core values of the University.

Photos courtesy of Craig Graves and Erin Gaylord

The Student Community Center logia (above) and the Student Activities Building Logia (below) were packed with students busily search for the right club or organization for them.

Students enjoyed some non-alcoholic drinks provided by the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality, a new organization on campus



Don't miss next week's issue where Dr. William J. Lennox Jr. discusses working at West Point during 9/11.

Science

Hoverboards, Futuristic Bikes and Robots Galore

By Kristen Collins
Contributing Writer

Summer has brought a huge amount of technological advancements, especially in the field of robots and transportation. Ideas of hoverboards, aerodynamic bicycle designs, and robots as workers for everyday life has been in the minds of many science enthusiasts and as of these last couple of months, it is becoming a reality. Test runs have come out successful and the road to a future filled with hovercrafts and other fantastical advancements is just within humanity's grasp.

Lexus, the luxury division of the Toyota car company, has been working on something completely different from its normal line of work. In the past months, Lexus has created a working hoverboard, shocking the world of scientists and the population alike. Having its first released announcement at the beginning of summer, this Japanese auto manufacturer took out the flying skateboard for its very first test run Aug. 5. While the test run was a true success, there are some drawbacks when dealing with its limitations.

The mechanics of the hoverboard, nicknamed The Slide, is just as complex as it seems in its creation. To hover off of the ground, The Slide uses magnetic levitation, a mechanic that somewhat parallels the maglev trains in Japan, China, and a few other countries. While there are some parallels, both use the science of magnetic levitation in completely different ways. Maglev trains work through the use of electromagnets repelling against one another to make the hovering effect. The Slide, on the other hand, uses a combination of electromagnets, repellents, and a temperature-based nitrogen for super-conductions. Such strong magnetics within the hoverboard must be kept at sub-zero temperatures to allow such hovering to take place.

The greatest drawback to The Slide is the fact that it cannot freely move around on any type of surface. Just like maglev trains, the hoverboard can only transverse across a specific type of surface that is riddled with "permanent magnets" to create a magnetic track. Other attempts at hoverboards have had these same problems with its inability to simply hover over just one specific ground. As of right now, it is evident that scientists in the field of magnetics and hovercraft invention must get over the obstacle of flexibility across different platforms.

Photo from Twitter@Gizmag

The fUCI road bike is the cycle of the future, outracing every other bicycle in the competition

On other forms of transportation taking concept art by storm is the bicycle being designed by creative director Robert Egger. With such strict regulations and guidelines in UCI (Union Cycliste Internationle) when making new frames of bicycles, Egger has taken all of these rules and discarded them for the purpose of developing a bicycle of the future. Not being burdened by these strict regulations, the fUCI (Eff You See Eye) road bike takes the concept of a bike to a new level, and while it will not be able to participate in official races, it will have the ability to flourish as a mode of transportation much faster and better.

Aerodynamic in its frame design, the fUCI is the first step in making high-tech bicycles that are for speedsters who are not in the official racing committee. The design of the bike has a uniquely large rear-wheel, a motor with a lithium battery, solar panels, and other electrical features. The rear wheel is 33.3 inches while the front wheel is significantly smaller. This feature allows the fUCI the ability the maintain speed easily, though getting to such a speed does take some effort. To balance out the effort needed, the fUCI also comes with a motor to assist in stopping and going. The bike comes with a charging stand that has both solar panels and a detachable lithium battery. There are also electronic features such as a docking station for smartphones, as well as onboard sensors and front and rear lights.

As new modes of transportation are being developed and transformed to ways of the future, robotics have also been busy this summer. Something crazy and completely over-the-top is going on within robotic advancement. A hotel employed solely by robots is up and running in Japan known as the Henn-na Hotel, or the Weird Hotel. It is a part of a theme park Huis Ten Bosch in Nagasaki, and the hotel was created by Hideo Sawada. Even though it has been made within a theme park, the functionality and innovation of the hotel is very serious in how employment will be seen in the future.

Fully functioning, the hotel has a receptionist desk manned by two different receptionists, one speaking Japanese and the other speaking English. The female humanoid robot, with extremely life-like skin and eyes, speaks Japanese. A raptor-like robot with vicious teeth and an outfit paralleling that of a bellhop speaks English. Every aspect of the hotel is managed by different forms of robots, who each have facial recognition. Other robots in the hotel can store luggage, rooms have facial recognition instead of keys, and there is even a little robot named "Tuly" who is a personal assistant to guests.

At about $80 a night, the costs of staying at Henna-na Hotel is relatively cheap and is easily accessible to the average family. Every part of the hotel has its own personality, allowing guests to have an unforgettable time. With a life-like woman Japanese receptionist, a vicious raptor bellhop English receptionist, and a cute little assistant named "Tuly" who gives guests the weather for the day and other helpful advice, this hotel can be an amazing and unique experience for families to enjoy.

The summer of 2015 has been an explosion of technological advances and a big step in the direction of making science fiction a reality. With a work-in-progress hoverboard, a futuristic road that is one of its kind, and a functioning hotel completely staffed by robots, nothing is completely impossible anymore. While all of these things still have a long way to go before they can be marketed, progress is coming and it is coming fast. Soon the world will be filled with robotic helpers and transportation is going to go in fantastical direction.

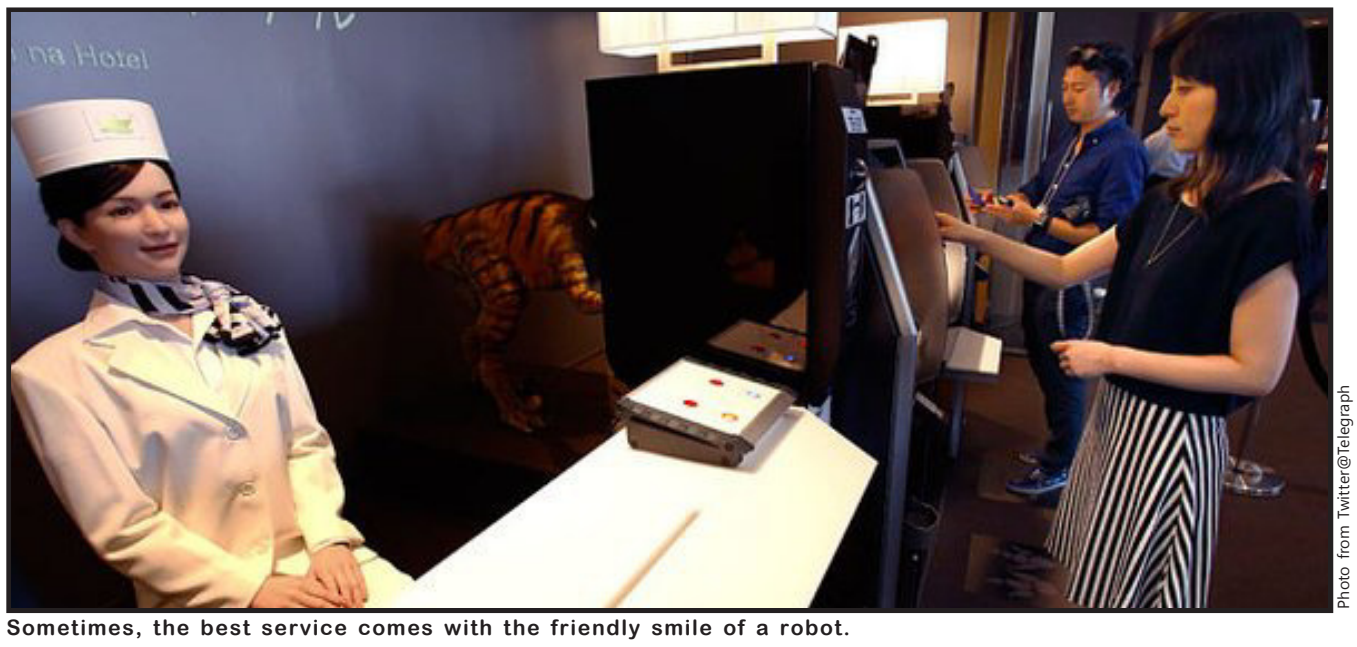


Photo from Twitter@Telegraph

Sometimes, the best service comes with the friendly smile of a robot.

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Arts & Entertainment

American Ultra: I Spy A Spy That's High

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

There are an abundance of classic stoner comedies in the film industry such as "The Big Lebowski," "Cheech and Chong's Up In Smoke," or the "Harold and Kumar" movies. However audiences might never have expected a humorous action spy film out of the cannabis movie industry. Director Nima Nourizadeh's new film, "American Ultra", brings audiences a new kind of stoner comedy to laugh at.

The plot of "American Ultra" is about Mike Howell (Jesse Eisenberg), a stoner convenient store clerk who lives in West Virginia. The store is visited one night by CIA agent Victoria Lasseter (Connie Britton), who says a sequence of code words that Mike doesn't understand and then exits the store. Later, outside of the store, Mike is attacked by two undercover agents he had seen messing with his car, who he quickly overpowers and kills. Realizing what he has done without having the slightest idea of how he did it, Mike calls his longtime stoner girlfriend, Phoebe Larson (Kristen Stewart), for help.

With memories slowly coming back to him, Mike remembers that he is a highly trained sleeper agent and now has been awakened into the midst of a deadly government operation where he is the targeted operate. While Mike must try to survive the onslaught of government threats, he must also find a way to propose to Phoebe before he is killed.

The actors in the movie are fantastic. Kristen Stewart plays decently as a snarky girl who genuinely cares for her boyfriend. Jesse Eisenberg also does well as in the film as his character has some of the funniest scenes. His character is very much like one of his previous roles as the character Columbus in "Zombieland," where the character was awkward and twitchy but funny and relatable.

While this film does hit a lot of good marks it stills has its problems. For instance, the plot is identical to the "Bourne" film series. Both films' plots are about an agent who has amnesia and finds out their identity as a highly trained past CIA agent. Another issue this film has is while the comedy is good, it stills lacks to the point where the movie feels less like a comedy film. In contrast, there are a lot more action scenes and exposition making the movie feel more like an action film.

Though the film is lacking in comedy segments, what comedy there is in the movie is hilarious to an extent. The scene where he kills the two undercover operatives is one of the funniest because he does it with only a cup of ramen and a spoon. The sudden realization on Eisenberg's face seals the scene and the humor magnificently.

While "American Ultra" has its flaws, it is still a fun stoner movie to just watch and have a good laugh. If you loved the "Harold and Kumar" films then you will most definitely like this film. "American Ultra" gets the rating of 4.0/5.

Jesse Eisenberg brings his awkward and hilarious geeky comedy to the movie.

Photo From Twitter@AmericanUltra

While Kristen Stewart has been called act-less in the past in this feel she makes the relationship between her and Jesse's characters genuine.

Sports

2015 Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Rough Seas Ahead

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers kick off the 2015 NFL regular season against the Tennessee Titans at Raymond James Stadium on Sept. 13. Following a pathetic season in which they only won 2 games, the Buccaneers hope that number one overall pick Jameis Winston can right the ship.

Unfortunately, while Winston should be a talented player, along with being a potential rookie of the year candidate, a shaky offensive line that allowed 13 sacks in the first three preseason games will not assist in the rookie quarterback's growth. Compounding on that issue is the injury to right tackle Demar Dotson; it will keep him out of action for the beginning of the regular season, meaning the one area where consistency is the most important for cohesion, the offensive line, will be in flux during the year.

However, if the offensive line performs better than expected, the rest of the offense has the talent to be a solid unit. Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans return as a dynamic wide receiver duo, providing both the size and speed that will force opposing defensive backs to be almost perfect every play. Evans, coming off a 1,051 yard rookie season, should make more progress and can easily be considered one of the best young wide receivers in the league.

For the running backs, if Doug Martin can shake the injury bug and return to his 2012 form, the Bucs will have another dangerous weapon. He gained almost 1,500 yards in that season, playing in all 16 games. Unfortnately, injuries have damaged his viability, limiting him to 17 of the 32 possible games in the last two seasons, during which he ran for a combined 950 yards.

Defensively, the Bucs should be better after a second full offseason of head coach Lovie Smith's Tampa 2 defense. The Tampa 2, developed by Smith, famed defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin and legendary coach Tony Dungy, found its home again last season in Tampa, as it was brought to existence during Dungy's run as head coach, in 1996.

The strength of the defense is the defensive line, anchored by three time Pro-Bowl defensive tackle Gerald McCoy. Combined with Jacques Smith, Clinton McDonald and George Johnson, the defensive line should be a benefit to the team, possibly keeping them in games that they would otherwise be getting crushed in.

The weakness of the defense is in the secondary. Alterraun Verner and Johnathan Banks are serviceable cornerbacks, but nothing special. Safeties Major Wright and Bradley McDougald are placeholders, at best, returning from last season in which they only started a combined 12 games.

Overall, the Buccaneers have improved from last season but they are nowhere near ready to compete for the playoffs yet. If the offensive line produces well above expectations, and a healthy Martin running the ball like his rookie year, the offense can be talented. If the secondary makes more strides than projected, the defense can be a scary monster.

The ifs are too large to ignore, and the league is too talented for the ifs to overcome. Expect another long, losing season in which the Bucs finish last in the NFC South, close to the bottom of the league.

Photo from @MikeEvans13_

This should be the year Mike Evans takes over as a top 5 wide receiver in the NFL.

The #1 overall pick in this year's draft, The Bucs hope Jameis Winston will be a major reason for a Tampa Resurgence.

Winston was only the second college freshman to ever win the Heisman Trophy, establishing himself as a force to be reckoned with.

Photos from Twitter@TBBuccaneers

It will take a major team effort to push for a winning record this season.

Scores This Week

M Cross Country

7/4 1st place: Southeastern Fire Short Course Invitational @ Lakeland, Fla.

W Cross Country

7/4 1st place: Southeastern Fire Short Course Invitational @ Lakeland, Fla

M Soccer

9/3: L 3-0 @ Young Harris

9/5: W 4-1 Vs Lees-McRae (@ Young Harris)

W Soccer

9/3: T 2-2 @ Flagler

9/6: W 3-2 @ #24 Valdosta St.

9/7: W 5-2 vs. Colo. Christian

W Volleyball

Hampton Inn-vitational, hosted by The University of West Florida

9/4: W 3-0 Vs Mo- St. Louis

W 3-0 vs Bridgeport

9/5: L 3-1 vs #3 Southwest Minn. St.

9/5: W 3-1 vs. #21 Ark.- Fort Smith